

<i>Overview of the South Dakota Assessment System</i>						
<i>Characteristic</i>	<i>Dakota STEP</i>	<i>Stanford Writing</i>	<i>State NAEP</i>	<i>Stanford ELP</i>	<i>STAARS</i>	<i>DACS (voluntary)</i>
<i>Primary Purpose</i>	School accountability - Improve instruction	Improve instructional writing skills	Benchmark for national standards	Test of annual progress	Federal requirement, school accountability, improve instruction	Diagnostic - Improve instruction
<i>Subject Areas Tested</i>	Reading, Math, Science, Social Science, Lang. Arts	Writing	Reading, math, science	English Language Acquisition	Reading, Math, Science, Social Science, Lang. Arts	Reading, Mathematics, Science, Language Arts
<i>Type of Test</i>	Norm-referenced and Criterion-referenced (standards based)	Performance-based	Criterion-referenced and Norm-referenced	Norm-referenced and performance-based	Performance-based	Criterion-referenced
<i>Grade Levels</i>	3-8 and 11	5 and 9	4 and 8	K-12	3-8 and 11	2 through 12, 2-8 (Science and LA)
<i>Item Types or Formats</i>	Multiple choice	On demand, direct measure	Multiple choice, constructed response	Multiple choice, speaking, writing, listening and reading	Under revision	Multiple choice
<i>Administration Dates</i>	End of March - Beginning of April	Beginning of October	Late January - early March	February	Under revision	Throughout the school year
<i>Dates When Results Released</i>	June	End of December	September – Reading and Math January of following year - Science	April	June	Immediately following the test
<i>Frequency of Test Administration</i>	Annually each spring	Annually each fall	Biannually for reading and math. Every 4 years for science and writing	Annually for students identified as LEP	Annually	As often as needed throughout the school year
<i>Administration Time</i>	Untimed	50 minutes	90 minutes	2-3 hours	Untimed	Untimed
<i>Test Length</i>	Varies by grade	One prompt per grade	Varies	Varies	NA	Approximately one hour per subject area
<i>Assessment Design</i>	Common fixed-length form	Common prompt delivered to every student	Balanced Incomplete Block Spiraling (multiple forms)	Common fixed-length, common prompt and speaking	Under revision	Computer Adaptive
<i>Types of Scores Reported</i>	Scaled scores, percentiles, performance levels	Analytic	Scaled scores, achievement levels	Performance levels	Under revision	Summary, gains, percentiles
<i>Achievement Levels Reported</i>	Below basic, basic, proficient, advanced	6 areas with 4 levels each	Basic, proficient, advanced	Pre-emergent, Emergent, Intermediate, Basic, Advanced	Yes	NA
<i>Levels of Reports</i>	Student, school, district, state	Student, school, district, state	State, region, nation	Student, district, state	Student, school, district, state, parent	Student, school, district, state
<i>Students Tested</i>	All students, grades 3-8 and 11 (includes alternate assessment)	All students, grades 5 and 9 (includes alternate assessment)	Sample of schools, sample of students, grades 4 and 8	All LEP students K-12	Students unable to participate in state and district-wide assessments	Voluntary
<i>Testing of Students with Disabilities</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes, unless NAEP does not provide accommodations required in IEP	Yes – no accommodations are allowed	Only students unable to participate in state and district assessments	Voluntary
<i>Accommodations for Students with Disabilities</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	None	Yes	Yes
<i>Testing of Students with Limited English Proficiency (LEP)</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes, after completing 2 years of instruction	Yes	Yes	Voluntary
<i>Accommodations for LEP</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	None	Yes	Yes
<i>Policies and Laws</i>	South Dakota Codified Law 13.3.55	South Dakota Codified Law 13.3.55	NAEP authorization, NCLB, and NAGB policies	PL 107-110: Title III	IDEA PL 105-17	NA
<i>History of Program</i>	Began in 1985, major revision in 2003	Began in 1998	1990 for math, 1992 for reading, 1998 for writing, and 1996 for science	Began Spring 2003	Began in 2000	Began in 2000
<i>Parental Permission</i>	Not required	Not required	Follows local guidelines. Parents can opt their child out	Not required but preferred	Parents are integral part of process	Not required
<i>Parental Notification</i>	Not required	Not required	Required	Not required but preferred	Parents are integral part of process	Not required
<i>Test Development</i>	State and contractor developed with input from teachers and personnel	Contractor developed with input from teachers and personnel	NAGB, NCES, ETS	Contractor developed	Under revision	State and contractor developed with input from teachers and personnel